

## Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 SSO-00 SS-15 SSM-03 NSCE-00  
SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 INRE-00 MCT-01 L-03  
H-01 PA-01 ICA-11 PM-05 DODE-00 /077 R

DRAFTED BY NEA/ARN:LPOPE:WNLHOWELL/ATP  
APPROVED BY NEA:NVELIOTES  
IO:CWMAYNES

-----070680 032036Z /62

O 032022Z JUN 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS IMMEDIATE  
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 141239

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MARR, LE, IS

SUBJECT: SOUTHERN LEBANON

1. WE WILL NEED AN AUTHORITATIVE READ-OUT OF RESULTS OF  
SARKIS-ASSAD DISCUSSIONS IN LATAKIA ASAP IN ORDER TO DE-  
TERMINE THE DIRECTION IN WHICH DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTHERN  
LEBANON ARE MOVING. WE ARE CONCERNED BY CUMULATIVE EFFECT  
OF RELATED DEVELOPMENTS OF WHICH THE FOLLOWING ARE THE  
MOST STRIKING:

-- RECENT REPORTS OF A REINFORCEMENT OF ARMED PALESTINIAN  
ELEMENTS WITHIN THE UNIFIL AREA OF OPERATIONS (JERUSALEM  
1521);

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-- POSSIBILITY THAT THE GOL AND SARG MAY HAVE AGREED ON  
SOME PLO PRESENCE BELOW THE LITANI;

-- CLARIFICATION FROM GOL AND PLO SOURCES THAT "FIVE POINT  
PROGRAM" WAS NON-BINDING UNILATERAL DECLARATION WHICH MAY  
NOT NECESSARILY FORESHADOW EVENTUAL WITHDRAWAL OF PLO ELE-  
MENTS FROM UNIFIL AREA;

-- ISRAELI INSISTENCE THAT UNIFIL CONSIDER MAJ. HADDAD TO BE LEGITIMATE GOL AUTHORITY IN SOUTHERN LEBANON AND NEGOTIATE UNIFIL DEPLOYMENT IN CHRISTIAN AREAS WITH HIM;  
-- LIKELIHOOD THAT PLO WILL ATTEMPT TO CONVERT UN AGREEMENT TO PERMIT TEMPORARY SUPPLY OF PLO ELEMENTS WITH NON-LETHAL GOODS TO FACILITATE RAPID WITHDRAWAL FROM AREA INTO PERMANENT, OPEN-ENDED ARRANGEMENT. CONSIDERED TOGETHER, THESE FACETS OF SITUATION RAISE POSSIBILITY THAT WE MAY BE HEADING TOWARD SOME FORM OF LEGITIMIZED PALESTINIAN ARMED PRESENCE IN UNIFIL AREA ALONG THE LINES OF THE DORMANT SHTAURA AGREEMENT. WE BELIEVE THAT MISSING PIECES OF EMERGING PICTURE MIGHT BE SUPPLIED BY INFORMATION ON AGREEMENTS REACHED BETWEEN SARKIS AND ASSAD AS WELL AS RELEVANT ISSUES LEFT UNDECIDED. WE ARE MOST CONCERNED AT THIS STAGE THAT WE DO NOT SLIDE INTO A REPLAY OF THE STATUS QUO ANTE WITH UNIFIL IN THE MIDDLE AND THAT DECISIONS NOT BE TAKEN WHICH WOULD DELAY FINAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL BY ANNOUNCED DATE OF JUNE 13.

2. FOR CHARGE LANE: YOU SHOULD SEEK EARLIEST POSSIBLE MEETING WITH SARKIS OR BOUTROS TO LEARN RESULTS OF LATAKIA SUMMIT. OBVIOUSLY, WE ARE UNABLE TO FRAME USG REACTION UNTIL OUTLINES OF THEIR AGREEMENT ARE CLEAR, BUT YOU SHOULD EMPHASIZE OUR COMMON INTEREST IN MOVING TOWARD STABILITY BASED UPON A REASSERTION OF LEBANESE CONFIDENTIAL

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AUTHORITY IN THE AREA AS WELL AS THE NEED TO MAKE DECISIONS WITH AN AWARENESS OF THEIR EFFECT ON ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL PLANS. WE ARE PARTICULARLY INTERESTED IN ASPECTS DEALING WITH THE QUESTION OF THE PALESTINIAN ARMED PRESENCE BELOW THE LITANI, SYRIAN WILLINGNESS TO CONTROL THE AREA NORTH OF THE LITANI, AND THE EFFECT OF THE DISCUSSIONS WITH ASSAD ON THE PLANS OF THE GOL TO DEPLOY AT LEAST SYMBOLIC UNITS OF THE LEBANESE ARMY IN THE UNIFIL AREA. IF YOU ARE TOLD THAT A NEW AGREEMENT HAS BEEN REACHED, OR IS BEING CONSIDERED, SANCTIONING A PALESTINIAN ARMED PRESENCE SOUTH OF THE LITANI, YOU SHOULD NOTE THIS WOULD INTRODUCE A NEW AND POTENTIALLY TROUBLESOME ELEMENT WHICH COULD RISK REPETITION OF THE DESTABILIZING EVENTS THAT UNIFIL WAS DESIGNED TO PREVENT. GOL SHOULD PROCEED WITH VIEW TO CREATING CONDITIONS THAT WILL ENABLE IT TO MAINTAIN ITS AUTHORITY IN SOUTHERN LEBANON AFTER UNIFIL'S EVENTUAL DEPARTURE.

3. WE WILL ALSO WISH YOU TO DISCUSS WITH SARKIS OR BOUTROS PLANS GOL IS MAKING FOR PERIOD FOLLOWING ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL. REMIND THEM THAT JUNE 13 IS APPROACHING AND OF OUR VIEW THAT IT WILL BE INCREASINGLY DIFFICULT FOR GOL

TO AVOID REACHING AT LEAST MODUS VIVENDI RE HADDAD'S STATUS IF TRANSFER OF TERRITORY TO UN CONTROL IS TO PROCEED SMOOTHLY. STRESS THAT IT IS INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT WITH UNIFIL INVOLVEMENT FOR THE LEBANESE AUTHORITIES TO SHARE THEIR THINKING AND DECISIONS ON THESE PRACTICAL

QUESTIONS WITH THE UN, WHICH CANNOT CARRY OUT ITS MANDATE EFFECTIVELY UNLESS IT IS APPRISED OF LEBANESE DECISIONS AND WISHES.

4. FOR USUN: WE THINK IT WOULD BE USEFUL FOR YOU TO SUPPORT IDEA WITH URQUHART OF FURTHER SIILASVUO/ERSKINE VISIT TO BOTH BEIRUT AND DAMASCUS. YOU SHOULD ALSO EXPLORE WITH HIM THE IDEA OF THE UN SUGGESTING AN EARLY CONFIDENTIAL

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MEETING OF THE ISRAELI-LEBANESE MIXED ARMISTICE COMMISSION TO DISCUSS PRACTICAL QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE FINAL ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL. WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE RECEIVING SECRETARIAT'S VIEW OF PALESTINIAN INTENTIONS IN LIGHT OF HEIGHTENED RATE OF INFILTRATION AND UNIFIL PLANS FOR DEALING WITH THIS VIOLATION OF PREVIOUS UNDERSTANDINGS, INCLUDING THAT RELATING TO RESUPPLY ARRANGEMENTS WORKED OUT BETWEEN ARAFAT AND GUYER.

CHRISTOPHER

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
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**To:** BEIRUT CAIRO MULTIPLE  
**Type:** TE  
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